

Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program Grant Awards – 2013



The Hill Top Motel has changed little since it opened in the 1950s. Grant funds will assist with rehabilitation of the heating, air conditioning, and roof systems.

Arizona

Project: Hill Top Motel Heating and Ventilation Rehabilitation
Recipient: Private Owner
Amount: \$20,000 NPS, \$21,478 match

The land for the Hill Top Motel in Kingman, Arizona was purchased in October of 1953, with construction starting a few months later. The Hill Top is an excellent example of the motel experience that was common during the post-war, family vacation boom. The exterior of the motel has changed little since it opened, and customers still pull right up to the front door of their rooms. The neon sign invites visitors just as it has done for decades, and serves as a popular subject for photos by guests and Route 66 travelers. Grant funds will assist with rehabilitation of the heating and air conditioning systems, along with minor roof repairs.



Photo courtesy of Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byway

The orphaned Vic Suhling neon sign was slated for demolition in the early 2000s, but was saved due to the foresight of visionary community members. Now the sign will be restored to operating condition to complete the newly opened Litchfield Museum and Route 66 Welcome Center.

Illinois

Project: Vic Suhling Neon Sign Restoration
Recipient: Litchfield Museum and Route 66 Welcome Center Association
Amount: \$11,275 NPS, \$11,275 match

Once the site of the Ariston Cafe from 1930 to 1934, Vic Suhling purchased the site in 1957 to build the "Vic" Suhling Gas for Less filling station. The station was so successful it operated 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and remained in business until 1973 when Route 66 was bypassed by the interstate. In 1990 the vacant building was razed leaving only the neon sign, which stood sentinel over the empty lot for the next 20 years. In 2011, the lot was purchased to build the recently opened Litchfield Museum & Route 66 Welcome Center. Recognizing the importance of the sign, the museum association seeks to restore the sign to operating condition, enhancing the experience and understanding of the Vic Suhling story and Route 66 in Litchfield.



The DeCamp Junction remains a lively road house and community center on Route 66 today. Grant funds will assist with much needed roof repairs.

Project: DeCamp Junction Roof Rehabilitation
Recipient: Private Owner
Amount: \$10,055 NPS, \$10,055 match

From the farm fields of southern Illinois, a road house known as Duda's Place emerged in 1931 to take advantage of the increasing traffic through the rural town of Staunton. Originally a small building ordered from a Montgomery Ward catalogue, living quarters were added to the rear and a second story was built to create a boarding house. The establishment was known for excellent food and their famous pizza. As Route 66 was bypassed, the road house continued to operate, but began a slow, steady decline. The current owner purchased the building in the 1990s, and renamed it DeCamp Junction for the coal mine that existed nearby. It continues to operate as a lively road house and community center, while undergoing steady improvements. Grant funds will help replace the extensively damaged roof.

Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program Funded Projects – 2013



The Santo Domingo Trading Post is undergoing restoration after a destructive fire. Grant funds will assist with restoration of the iconic façade and development of an interpretive program at the trading post.

New Mexico

Project: Santo Domingo Trading Post Mural Restoration and Oral History Project

Recipient: Cornerstones Community Partnerships on behalf of the Santo Domingo Tribe

Amount: \$22,180 NPS, \$38,246 match

The Santo Domingo Trading Post is a memorable landmark on the 1926-1932 alignment of US 66 in New Mexico. Established in 1922, the trading post represents a cultural and economic crossroad for the neighboring Santo Domingo Tribe and automobilists. The trading post was very popular historically, and its painted façade was featured in Life magazine. The trading post suffered a devastating fire in 2002, but with assistance from an Economic Development Administration grant, it is being rebuilt. Grant funds will assist with restoration of the painted façade, and with the collection of oral histories that will explore tribal perspectives on the impact of the automobile and mercantilism.



The Whiting Bros. #72 station still offers automotive services today. Grant funds will restore the distinctive red-on-yellow signs to operating condition.

Project: Whiting Bros. #72 Sign Restoration

Recipient: Relive the Route Committee in collaboration with Private Owner

Amount: \$7,715 NPS, \$7,715 match

Whiting Brothers was established in 1926 as a chain of gasoline stations. At its peak, it operated more than a hundred stations, including at least 40 along Route 66. Its distinctive red-on-yellow signs advertised the businesses, which sometimes included motel complexes. Art and Ernest Whiting built Station #72 in Moriarty, New Mexico in 1954. Later, traffic slowed on Route 66 with the coming of the interstate and business declined. In 1985, a life-time employee purchased Station #72, and still provides automotive services to local residents and travelers on Route 66 today. Grant funds will restore the iconic signs to become the only known Whiting Brothers signs in operation today.



The Milan Motel and Trading Post, today known as the Kachina Country Trading Post, has been in operation since 1947. Grant funds will assist with rehabilitating the building's historic electrical systems.

Project: Milan Trading Post Electrical System Rehabilitation

Recipient: Private Owner

Amount: \$10,000 NPS, \$10,000 match

The Milan Motel and Trading Post has a rich history on Route 66. The motel complex was built in 1947 by the Milan family, for which the town was named. The family also managed a booming carrot industry in the area, which became known as the "Carrot Capital of the United States." Although a second story was added to the trading post in the 1970s, the motel and trading post retain much of their historic integrity today and are eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Plumbing and electrical system issues have forced the closure of the motel units, but the trading post remains open today. Grant funds will assist with the electrical rehabilitation of the trading post to address serious fire and other safety concerns. Long term goals are to restore the motel units to operating condition.

Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program Funded Projects – 2013



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

The Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program was established through an Act of Congress to assist private property owners; nonprofit organizations; local, state, tribal, and federal government agencies; and other stakeholders in the preservation of the most representative and significant historic Route 66 properties in the eight states through which the route passes. The program assists in identifying priorities and setting preservation standards as per the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Places*. The program serves as a clearinghouse of preservation-related information; provides technical assistance; and offers funding support through an annual, competitive cost-share grant program.

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The National Trails Intermountain Region administers the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program, Trail of Tears National Historic Trail, Santa Fe National Historic Trail, El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail, California National Historic Trail, Oregon National Historic Trail, Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trail, and the Pony Express National Historic Trail. El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail and the Old Spanish National Historic Trail are administered jointly with the Bureau of Land Management.

These trail and corridor programs are administered in partnership with American Indian tribes; federal, state, and local agencies; nongovernment organizations; and private landowners.

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.